

## Celebrity Buzz

**Tax man reportedly after Cage**

pg 18



The world's largest global newspaper

# metro

Canada

pg 4

**Obama to meet PM for 2nd time**



## Bank heist leads cops on manhunt

**CRIME** Halifax Regional Police were trying to track down a bank robber yesterday.

Police said a man walked into the Credit Union at 380 Pleasant St. in Dartmouth just after 1:20 p.m.

He demanded staff hand over cash and then took off from the Woodside area bank with what police call "an undisclosed amount" of money.

Police said no one was injured, adding witnesses described the suspect as a man who is about five feet, 10 inches tall. He was reportedly wearing blue pants, a grey hoodie and a mask when the offence occurred.

Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said officers hadn't made any arrests as of yesterday evening. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 490-5016.

METRO HALIFAX

## Local pg 3



## The best in buskers

## Travel pg 14

**Syria flaunts hidden gems**

Warm weather

Riding the wave



Dartmouth's Nash Gracie, 17, rides his skimboard at Lawrencetown Beach yesterday. A lot of people have hit the beach over the past week as warm and humid weather has hit HRM.

## Board OKs conservation plan

**KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE**  
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**ENERGY** The province's utility and review board has put its stamp of approval on Nova Scotia Power's \$23-million plan to save energy, with some amendments, in a decision released yesterday.

Consumer advocate John Merrick said the decision "means that there'll be a more robust conservation program implemented in 2010."

"This was an application

by Nova Scotia Power to have the board approve a spending program for what's called DSM, or demand side management, which is really a euphemism for a conservation effort," he explained yesterday. "The board approved their plan with a few minor changes."

Those include Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's denial of a mechanism called LCFC, or lost contribution to fixed costs mechanism, which would have allowed NSP to recover any revenue it loses

through DSM by dinging consumers.

"If conservation takes hold and is successful, they're going to be selling less electricity, which means they'll get less revenue and they wanted to recover the amount of revenue that they would lose," Merrick said.

All electricity users will help pay for the conservation program, Merrick said, adding costs "have been ... equitably split among all the rate classifications in a fair and balanced way."

# Heart of the issue

**Nurses testify on Hyde's health as inquiry into death resumes**

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
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**Symptoms of Howard Hyde suffering cardiac stress cannot be conclusively linked to his struggle with police officers before hospitalization, a Halifax Regional Police lawyer argued yesterday.**

Hyde, off his medication for schizophrenia, was arrested, struggled with police and was Tasered in November of 2007.

He was thought to have suffered cardiac arrest during the struggle and was taken to hospital, but was later cleared only to die the next day in a Burnside jail.

Yesterday the fatality inquiry into Hyde's death reconvened after a week off to look at what happened when Hyde was in hospital.

After the struggle Hyde was not breathing and police could not find a pulse.

He was revived and sent to hospital but yesterday two nurses testified his heart rate was elevated and abnormal, his white blood cell count was worryingly high and an EKG scan showed a damaged chest muscle.

But whether he actually

suffered from a heart attack or cardiac arrest isn't clear.

Hours after he was admitted Hyde's condition had improved.

Doctors cleared him medically rather than keeping him in the hospital for further testing.

The doctors who treated Hyde are scheduled to testify next week.

Halifax Regional Police lawyer Sandra MacPherson-Duncan proposed Hyde's symptoms could have been caused by a condition called

supraventricular tachycardia, or SVT. She said the condition can occur spontaneously or due to stress, and therefore reasoned Hyde's symptoms may not be a result of the police

struggle. The nurses also testified Hyde was confused and not making sense, but was not aggressive. Police removed Hyde from hospital to take him to court before he could get psychiatric help.

The inquiry heard yesterday there are now psychiatric liaison nurses available 24/7 — in 2007 it was only from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. — and a process to get patients psychiatric help before they're treated medically if their condition isn't serious.



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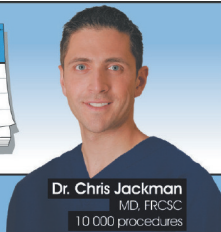
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The federal government has given National Historic Site status to the Memorial Tower at Sir Sandford Fleming Park in Halifax. Better known as the Dingle, the four-sided tower built from 1908 to 1912 was created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Local



## Momma Goose passes away

A fixture at the Public Gardens is no more as the popular goose, fondly named Mother or Momma Goose, passed away Monday. A release from the Halifax Regional Municipality said yesterday the goose was dropped off at the Public Gardens over 20 years ago and has remained there up to her death. "Mother Goose was certainly very real and brought a great deal of pleasure to all who came in contact with her, as she was both friendly and gentle," the release said. **METRO HALIFAX**

## Transit set for Sidney's parade

Tens of thousands expected to attend event to catch a glimpse of Stanley

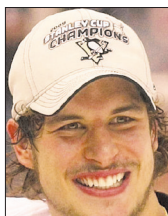
PHILIP CROUCHER  
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**Metro Transit is offering a free shuttle bus service to and from the Sidney Crosby Stanley Cup parade in Cole Harbour on Friday afternoon.**

The shuttles will operate from Mic Mac and Penhorn mall terminals in Dartmouth to Cole Harbour Place on a 10-minute frequency from 1 to 3 p.m. A return shuttle service to the two terminals will run from Cole Harbour Place

on a "load-and-go" basis beginning at 6:30 p.m. to about 8 p.m.

In addition to the shuttle service, Metro Transit also said passengers have the option of travelling to the parade on the regular transit routes to Cole Harbour, which are No. 59 Colby, No. 61 Auburn/North Preston and No. 68 Cherrybrook. Regular fares will apply to conventional route serv-



Sidney Crosby

ice, the release said.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend Friday's parade, which will be the main event on Crosby's 22nd birthday, which he's spending with Lord Stanley's mug.

The parade will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Portland Hills bus terminal and head down to Cole Harbour Place. Crosby and the Cup are ex-

### Concert time

• If seeing Sidney Crosby hoist the Stanley Cup at a parade wasn't enough, you can now end Friday's festivities by watching a free concert by Juno Award winning artist Sam Roberts at 6:45 p.m.

pected to arrive at CHP at 3:30 p.m.

The Pittsburgh Penguins superstar is scheduled to address the crowd shortly after his arrival at the sports facility.

Earlier in the day Friday, Crosby will arrive with the Stanley Cup by Sea King Helicopter on the flight deck of HMCS Preserver at 9 a.m. Following greetings from several dignitaries, including Defence Minister Peter MacKay, Crosby will meet a group of sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen, civilian employees and their families from Halifax Region Canadian Forces.

He will then leave the dockyard in a light armoured vehicle convoy.

## Murder suspect turns himself in

**POLICE** A man wanted for first-degree murder in the death of Neil Blades Jr. last month near Yarmouth turned himself into Halifax police yesterday morning.

The RCMP say Ian Matthew Huskins, 28, walked into Halifax Regional Police headquarters on Göttingen Street at 11:10 a.m.

and was arrested 11 minutes later. A RCMP release said the South-west Nova Major



Crime unit Ian Matthew Huskins was making arrangements to transport Huskins to Yarmouth yesterday and he is scheduled to make a court appearance in the town this morning.

Huskins is one of three people charged in relation to the murder of Blades Jr., whose body was found in the water under a Belleville, Yarmouth Co. bridge in mid-July.

Jermaine Middleton is also charged with first-degree murder in the case and was scheduled to appear in court yesterday. Alicia Anderson is also charged with accessory after the fact.

**METRO HALIFAX**

## Council to look into district boundaries

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**GOVERNMENT** Halifax Regional Council voted yesterday to dive straight into a district boundary review that will take a year and a half to complete.

The process is required by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, but it will be far from easy for city councillors, who will take a close look at how HRM is governed and decide how many polling districts are needed.

Coun. Sue Uteck of Northwest Arm-South End told Metro Halifax after yesterday's meeting that it will be "a challenge" because it will require councillors to agree on what districts could be amalgamated, and subsequently which of their colleagues could be without districts to represent. She said that's "what has killed the process in the past."

Currently, HRM has a 23-member council, not including Mayor Peter Kelly.

During the last major review in 2003, a committee composed of citizens recommended dropping the size to 20 districts, but in the end city council voted to maintain the status quo. The URB agreed, ruling that while public consultation is necessary, council had left too much of the

### Review

• The full district boundary review is to be submitted to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 2010.

discussion up to citizens. "Council appears to have adopted the view that it was somehow inappropriate for it to decide what size of council or style of municipal government should exist in HRM," the board said. "It is not only entirely appropriate, but in fact necessary, for municipal council to make this decision."

Uteck said she still thinks a separate body should recommend the reduced size, with input from individual councillors, adding the final decision should go "straight to the URB."

Coun. Bob Harvey of Lower Sackville went a step further, stating now may be the right time to discuss whether or not HRM itself is too large.

"There wasn't much appetite around council to include that as part of the mandate," he said last night.

The process will also involve a committee made up of residents and experts who will recommend new boundaries.

## Display Sloane wants Public Gardens open longer



Glenn Wilson works on the Friends of the Public Gardens 25th anniversary display yesterday. Coun. Dawn Sloane of Halifax Downtown was to make a proposal to the rest of city council yesterday suggesting the Public Gardens remain open for a longer part of the year. Right now the park's open season is from May to November, subject to weather conditions.

### News in brief

**TOURISM** The decline in tourists coming to Nova Scotia this year continued in May, as the province saw a decrease of two per cent for the month from this year to last. A government release yesterday said there were 175,000 visitors that came to the province in May, with the number of room nights sold down by 12 per cent. Some good news is that road travel

was up nine per cent, and there was a four per cent increase in the amount of Atlantic Canadians visiting the province. Overall, through the first five months of 2009, there was a seven per cent decrease in tourists compared to 2008.

**MEETING** Darrell Dexter is attending the 2009 Council of the Federation tomorrow and Friday in Regina as the meeting

includes all premiers and delegates from the country's provinces and territories. Tomorrow's agenda will centre on the economy, while Friday the discussion turns to building strong international relationships. As well, Dexter is scheduled to help lead the discussion on pandemic planning for influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu.

**METRO HALIFAX**

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What's online today.

**Video** Officials say the next 48 hours will be crucial as wildfires threaten B.C. communities at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)  
**Video** Toronto residents rejoice as garbage collectors return to work after a long strike at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)  
**Watch** the MetroTube of the Day — the video you need to see  
**Check** movie showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews





## Tentative deal in civic strike

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union announced yesterday it has reached a tentative agreement with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality on behalf of their Cape Breton police members (Local 1995). Details of the tentative agreement won't be released until members have voted on it Aug. 18. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Charges pending in fatal crash

## Cops say alcohol may be factor in multi-vehicle pile up

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**Police are still determining what charges a 54-year-old woman could face following a fatal collision late Monday afternoon in Cole Harbour that is suspected of involving alcohol.**

"It's definitely part of our investigation," RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said yesterday of whether alcohol played a role in the horrific crash.

The multi-car pile-up took place just before 5:40 p.m. at the intersection of Cole Harbour Road and Forest

Hills Parkway, and it involved the same Chevrolet Alero that police say was involved in a hit-and-run crash in front of 945 Cole Harbour Rd. moments earlier.

Police say in the first collision the 54-year-old woman pulled out of the

parking lot and struck a Chevrolet Grand Am that was travelling westbound. Three women and one infant girl from the Grand Am were transported to hospital with what is believed to

be non-life-threatening injuries.

Police allege the woman suspect fled the scene and started travelling eastbound on Cole Harbour Road when she struck two vehicles waiting at the red light, including a Toy-

### Victim ID'd

• Gary Erroll Pfinder, 57, of Cole Harbour was identified yesterday by Halifax RCMP as the victim of Monday's fatal car crash. Pfinder was a retired Dartmouth High School french teacher.

ota Camry.

The collision pushed both vehicles into the intersection and into a Chevrolet Malibu, which was turning left from Forest Hills Parkway onto Cole Harbour

Road.

A 57-year-old Cole Harbour man who was driving the Camry was pronounced dead at the scene. Three other people were taken to hospital, including the woman behind the wheel of the Alero, who is still listed in serious condition.

Police are continuing their investigation into the cause of the crash and are looking at alcohol as a potential factor. They were interviewing witnesses who saw either crash yesterday, and were also talking to people who may have seen the suspect's car travelling eastbound on Cole Harbour Road.

## Man in serious condition after vehicle rollover

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**COLLISION** An adult male was airlifted to the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax with serious injuries after the vehicle he was driving flipped several times before landing on its side on Highway 101 yesterday morning.

Windsor RCMP say the accident took place around 7:30 a.m. between Exits 4 and 5 near St. Croix. Police say the male occupant of the vehicle crossed the highway onto the westbound shoulder striking two parked vehicles, nei-

ther of which had people in it.

Police say the parked vehicles belonged to workers with the provincial government's Highway 101 twinning project.

**"Obviously, we have some idea (to what caused it)."**

Les Kakonyi, RCMP

"Obviously, we have some idea (to what caused it)," said RCMP spokesperson Const. Les Kakonyi, who has ruled out alcohol as a factor. "It could be fatigue. It could be inattentiveness. We're not 100 per cent sure at this stage."

Police say the driver is believed to be in his 30s and has undetermined injuries. Highway 101 was closed for two hours because of the accident.

## Buskers flying in for festival spectacle

**HILARY BEAUMONT**  
for Metro Halifax

With a polka-dot umbrella held high above her head and flippers on her feet, Becky Hoops of Montreal will spin a stack of hoola hoops around her waist as part of the 23rd annual Halifax International Busker Festival.

World famous performers will join her at the popular 11-day street theatre event which kicks off tomorrow and includes performers ranging from the human knot, Alakazam, to the dance crew with a motivational message, Ill-mask, to the acrobats with accents, The English Gents.

The popular festival has flown in each acrobat, comedian and artist from as far away as Australia. Their airfare is covered, but the festival doesn't pay its performers. They rely on donations from local spectators.

Event promoter Leah Tarlao said yesterday crowds on average pay around \$5 per person for each performance. Tarlao said free international flights stretched this year's



Montreal's Becky Hoops is one of the featured Canadian performers for the 23rd annual Halifax International Busker Festival, which begins tomorrow and runs through Aug. 16 on the Halifax waterfront.

festival budget somewhat.

She said more Nova Scotian performers would have eased budget stress, but added local acts will be no-shows this year. "This is actually one of the first years where we haven't had any."

Each year the festival tries to attract local talent in addition to national and international performers. In previous years, Tarlao said the festival sideshow "Maritimers Got Talent" attracted local acts, but this year almost no one applied.

"We may have had one or two local applications, but not very many," Tarlao said, adding that if they had more applications, they would accept local acts. "We also have to consider putting the local in with the international acts. We can't just choose anyone. We have to be really careful."

Tomorrow's official opener takes place at 5 p.m. at Sackville Landing, and includes the likes of The English Gents, the world renowned USA Breakdancers and Pogo Dudes. The remaining stages will open at 6 p.m.

### Halifax International Busker Festival

• Event runs from tomorrow through Aug. 16. Shows will run daily from noon until 11 p.m.

• Six stages will be used for performances, with locations at Historic Properties, Chebucto Landing, Queen's Wharf,

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Sackville Landing. • There are over 20 acts scheduled to perform for the festival.

val.

• For a complete lineup and biographies, visit [buskers.ca](http://buskers.ca).

**METRO HALIFAX**

### News in brief

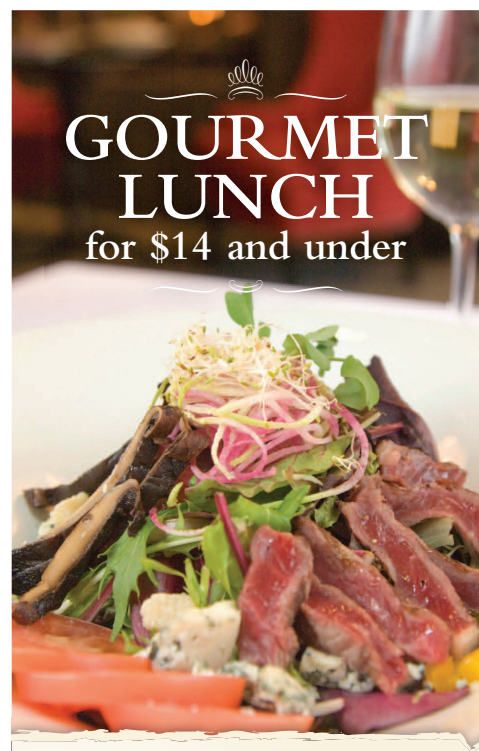
**ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION** Nova Scotia RCMP is looking to the public for information in regards to an attempted child abduction case in Mulgrave, Antigonish Co. last month. Police say on July 9 at about 9

p.m., a man between the ages of 40 and 50 drove into the driveway of a residence in the community and told a female child he had something in the vehicle for her. Police say the child didn't know the man and

she didn't go into the vehicle. The man was driving a large-sized white moving van that was spray painted to cover lettering on its sides and may have the letter A-E-C on top of the vehicle, police said. He is

described with dark skin, a pointed chin and bushy black hair and eyebrows. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers or the Antigonish detachment of the RCMP.

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to announce a free-trade deal with Panama next week when he meets with Ricardo Martinelli, a right-wing supermarket magnate who won the presidency of the Central American country three months ago. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Canada



## Human foot found in trash

A foot found in an upstate New York garbage dump Monday night is at the centre of a Toronto investigation after suggestions that it might have originated from Toronto's trash. Workers at the Seneca, N.Y., garbage dump just outside Buffalo discovered the foot around 8:50 p.m. Monday while manually removing recyclables off a conveyor belt carrying Toronto trash, Toronto police Staff Sgt. David Vickers said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### News in brief

**VIDEO** A YouTube video showing a seven-year-old boy at the wheel of a sport utility vehicle — with his family cheering him on — has prompted an investigation by Quebec police and family services, police said yesterday. The video was apparently shot by the boy's father from the SUV's passenger seat as the boy drives and his mom and siblings watch from the back seat. **REUTERS**

## Premiers take aim at 'Buy America'

**Canada's provincial and territorial leaders gather today in Regina amid urgent calls for them to help Prime Minister Stephen Harper repel U.S. protectionist "Buy America" trade policies.**

Harper, who meets with U.S. President Barack Obama on Sunday, is banking

on the premiers formally coming out against domestic discriminatory trading practices. The prime minister hopes any premiers' accord can be used as leverage by Obama to convince protectionists in the U.S. Congress to give Canadian firms an exemption from the Buy America provi-

sions being applied by state and local governments.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, who is hosting the three-day meeting, said in an interview yesterday he believes some sort of an agreement can be reached.

"I sense a great deal of consensus obviously

amongst the provinces to say, 'Look, if we're going to be going down and pointing out the problems with the Buy America plan we do have to make sure our own house is in order.' ... We're always better off in free trade environments," said Wall.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### Compromise

• Last week, the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters and the Canadian Council of Chief Executives urged the prime minister and the premiers to come up with a trade-rules compromise.

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## Curb aid to Ethiopia, says lawyer

**POLITICS** Canada's government should consider curbing foreign aid to Ethiopia to express its unhappiness over the case of a Canadian jailed for life in the African country, a lawyer for the man said yesterday.

An Ethiopian court jailed Bashir Makhtal on Monday after he was convicted of membership in a rebel group fighting for independence for an ethnically Somali part of the country.

Lorne Waldman, Makhtal's Canadian lawyer, said the charges were baseless and he called on Ottawa to look at its aid to Ethiopia. In 2006-07, the latest period for which figures were available, the assistance totalled \$83 million.

"We have a lot of leverage because we provide a very generous aid package to Ethiopia," Waldman told the CBC.

Makhtal's relatives in Canada also called on Ottawa to freeze foreign aid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## CFB Trenton Mourning heroes



Mourners carry roses to the casket of fallen Canadian soldier Corp. Christian Bobbitt during a repatriation ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, yesterday. Bobbitt was killed on Saturday in Afghanistan.

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**'Sexting' on the rise in Britain**

A growing number of British teens are swapping explicit images of themselves on mobile phones, leaving them open to bullying and victimization, police and a charity said. **REUTERS**

**5**

# World

## Clinton secures release

**North Korea said last night it had pardoned two jailed American journalists after former U.S. President Bill Clinton met the reclusive state's leader Kim Jong-il, a move some analysts said could pave the way to direct nuclear disarmament talks.**

Clinton's spokesman said the former president had left Pyongyang with the two reporters and they were flying to Los Angeles.

Washington, which is keen not to be seen to reward the isolated North for its recent nuclear and missile tests, insisted the meeting was a private one by Clinton.

But Pyongyang, desperate for the recognition that direct talks with the Oba-

### Successor?

• Clinton's trouble-shooting mission coincided with intense speculation over succession in Asia's only communist dynasty. Several reports suggest an increasingly frail-looking Kim, 67, has settled on his third son to take over.

ma administration would bring, made clear it saw the visit in a much more official light.

The North's KCNA news agency said Clinton and Kim "had candid and in-depth discussions on the pending issues between the DPRK (North Korea) and the U.S. in a sincere atmosphere."

The two reporters, Euna Lee, 36, and Laura Ling, 32, who work for Current TV, an American TV outlet co-founded by Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, had been sentenced to 12 years hard labour for illegally entering the North and committing "grave crimes."

"The families of Laura Ling and Euna Lee are overjoyed by the news of their pardon," said a statement posted on a website created to support the two journalists.

Clinton, husband of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was the highest-level American to visit the reclusive communist state since his secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, went there in 2000. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**TERROR** Australian police arrested four men they said were linked to a Somali militant group yesterday, accusing them of planning a suicide attack on an army base and raising fears the al-Qaida-linked rebels were seeking targets outside Africa. The four were seized in dawn raids on 19 properties across Melbourne following a seven-month investigation involving several forces and Australia's national security agency.

**FOOD** India has asked UNICEF to stop distributing millions of dollars worth of nutrition aid to children, saying it had been done without permission and at the expense of local food to fight hunger. The Ministry for Women and Child Development said UNICEF had not informed the government about importing \$2.4 million worth of food in 2008 and said the money could have been spent elsewhere. **REUTERS**

### Happy Birthday Mr. President



Climate change activists wear party hats alongside a giant mask featuring U.S. President Barack Obama on the occasion of his 48th birthday yesterday in Washington. The protesters "celebrated" by symbolically presenting a giant plane ticket for him to attend the UN climate change conference in Denmark.

## Sudanese police officers break up pants protest

**TRIAL** Police used teargas to disperse protesters rallying in support of a Sudanese woman facing 40 lashes for wearing trousers in public yesterday, a case that has become a public test of Sudan's indecency laws.

Lubna Hussein, a former journalist and UN press officer, was arrested with 12 other women during a party at a Khartoum restaurant in July and charged with being indecently dressed.

Women's groups have

complained the law gives no clear definition of indecent dress, leaving the decision of whether to arrest a woman up to individual police officers.

Dozens of men and women gathered outside a Khartoum court room where Hussein appeared yesterday, carrying banners with the message "No return to the dark ages" and "Lubna's case is a case for all Sudanese women."

**REUTERS**

## At least five dead in gym shooting

**PENNSYLVANIA** At least five people, including the gunman, were shot and killed during a shooting spree at a fitness centre near Pittsburgh, according to media reports last night.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported on its website that a man with a duffel bag walked into an L.A. Fitness Center in Collier township and began firing.

CNN quoted a local official as saying five people were killed and up to another 15 wounded. **REUTERS**

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## Comment

# Ode to the 'Father of Medicare'

## TheWestView

**Paul Sullivan**

metronews.ca/thewestview

As Barack Obama tries to bring universal health care to the U.S.A. and the "Brooks Brothers Brigade" tries to stop him, let's take a quiet moment and give thanks

to \_\_\_\_ (fill in the deity of your choice) for medicare.

More than back bacon and our legendary tendency to go "eh?" it's what makes us Canadian.

In fact, we should erect a statue to Tommy Douglas, the Father of Medicare, right on the lawn of Parliament Hill. I'm sure we can warehouse a couple statues of Queen Victoria to make space.

I suspect that many of you reading this today born in the 1970s, '80s or '90s have no idea who Tommy Douglas was. A lit-

tle background: He was the premier of Saskatchewan who fought off the fiercely focused efforts of the medical lobby and a doctor's strike to get universal health care adopted in Saskatchewan, back in 1962. Four years later, Ottawa, under Lester Pearson (another statue, please), followed suit.

And now, when you're sick, you can get health care without being ruined, even if you have a "prior condition," unlike 47 million Americans. It's why we're so careful when we

go shopping for cheese across the border. We might break a leg and won't be able to crawl back to health care and safety.

I know, I know. There's a lot wrong with the system as currently constituted. The Fraser Institute (our own version of the Brooks Brothers Brigade) estimates health care will consume 100 per cent of provincial revenues by the year 2050 (it takes up more than half now), and the average wait time for surgery and other medical procedures is 17 weeks. The

good news: That's down from 18 weeks in 2007.

And we all have stories of being stacked up in a hospital corridor or getting treated in a broom closet while waiting for a bed. Inevitably, we're looking at a two-tier system where those who can will pay for preferential treatment, while the rest of us limp into the lineup.

Implementing a version of that two-tier system in America will cost \$1 trillion. But it's necessary — now more than ever as increased unemployment

brings increased loss of benefits.

It's funny. I remember Tommy Douglas as a little man with thick glasses and an annoying, adenoidal speaking style that would cause me to change channels if there was more than one, which, in 1962, there wasn't. But without that adenoidal little man, we'd all be up Meech Lake without a paddle.

Cue the statue.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; [vancouverletters@metronews.ca](mailto:vancouverletters@metronews.ca).

**Word on the street: There have been conflicting opinions about whether or not the recession is over. Do you think we're on the road to recovery?**

**Andrea Ewer**

age 22, Halifax

A: I haven't noticed any difference in my own personal life — I haven't noticed any up or down.

**Tim Pollak**

age 50, Calgary

A: I do think we're on the road to recovery — I'm optimistic. I think there's decent economic reports, the stock markets are going up.

**Mildred MacDonald**

age 61, Halifax

A: Yes, I think we've levelled off. I think the downward trend has stopped. I think it's the natural cycle of the economy — it will come back.

**Yvan Levesque**

age 57, Toronto

A: No. I don't think so. I think it's only starting to get better because in Toronto, everything is going up in price: Rent, food, everything except people's salaries.

**Melanie Keast**

age 33, New Brunswick

A: I don't think we're over it yet. As Canadians I think we really need to keep track of how we spend and how we live, and learn to be smart spenders.

**Brian Ball**

age 23, Calgary

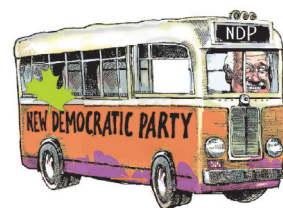
A: No. I heard about the deficit change in Alberta from \$4 billion to \$7 billion. That doesn't sound like we are on the road to recovery.



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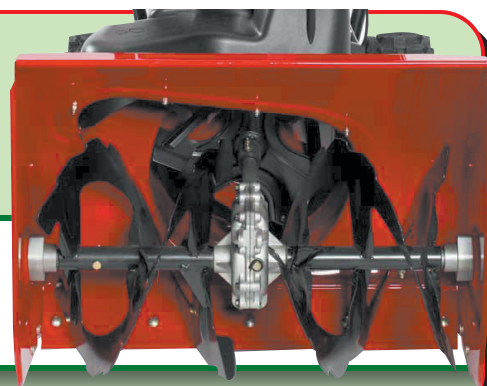
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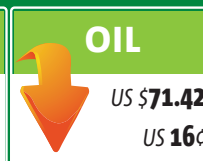
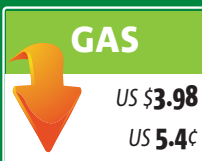
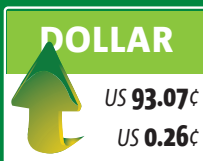
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PepsiCo Inc. won over its two largest bottlers by raising its takeover offers more than 20 per cent to \$7.8 billion, giving investors a welcomed but not unexpected windfall. **REUTERS**

# Business



EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Business in brief

**TELECOM** Bankrupt Nortel Networks received U.S. and Canadian court approval yesterday to sell its enterprise business. Nortel, based in Toronto, said it reached a "stalking horse" agreement to sell the

enterprise business to Avaya Inc. for \$475 million US after considering four bids.

**RECESSION** U.S. consumers spent more in June and pending sales of pre-owned homes also rose, data released yesterday

showed, but the biggest drop in incomes in four-and-a-half years pointed to a slow recovery. Spending rose 0.4 per cent in June after a 0.1 per cent gain the previous month.

**CONSTRUCTION** Canam Group

said yesterday one of its units, Structural-Heavy Steel Construction, has won a contract worth almost \$60 million to help build a retractable roof on the new Marlins baseball park near Miami, Fla.

**REUTERS**

## Ford tops July auto sales list

**Ford has stunned the Canadian auto industry again by selling the most vehicles for the second consecutive month.**

Showing that its run to the top of the market in June for the first time in 60 years was no fluke, Ford reported yesterday sales shot up a startling 47 per cent in July from the same month a year earlier.

Hyundai, whose sales soared 37 per cent, joined Ford among the few posting big gains in July as the overall market dropped 6.4 per cent or almost 10,000 vehicles to 139,901.

It marked the ninth consecutive month that auto sales have dropped in Canada during the recession despite continuing incentives. But the decline is the smallest one during the period and is fuelling hopes that the industry could be pulling out of a severe downturn.

### July sales

<b>Ford Motor Co.:</b>	26,788 units sold — up 47.4 per cent
<b>General Motors:</b>	19,663 units sold — down 41.9 per cent
<b>Toyota:</b>	19,232 units sold — down 12.5 per cent
<b>Chrysler:</b>	15,958 units sold — down 10.4 per cent
<b>Honda:</b>	13,984 units sold — up 12.5 per cent
<b>Hyundai:</b>	10,488 units sold — up 37.8 per cent

Economist Carlos Gomes, an auto specialist at Scotiabank Group, said the sales results underscore his firm's view that "an industry revival has begun."

Sales for the first seven months of the year are still down 16.6 per cent or more than 171,000 vehicles to almost 861,000.

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## India BlackBerry launch



Frenny Bawa, left, vice-president of Research In Motion's India operations, and Raghunath Mandava, chief marketing officer of Airtel, hold BlackBerry Curve 8520 smartphones during its launch in New Delhi yesterday.

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## Ticats take two weekly awards

DeAndra' Cobb, rookie running back of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats was named the CFL's offensive player of the week yesterday. Hamilton linebacker Jamall Johnson took home the defensive award, Arkee Whitlock of the Edmonton Eskimos was named special-teams player of the week and Saskatchewan Roughriders slotback Chris Getzalf was top Canadian. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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# Sports



## Zherdev a free agent

Nikolai Zherdev, left, has become an unrestricted free agent after the New York Rangers walked away from the \$3.9-million US salary arbitration award to the winger. An arbitrator awarded Zherdev \$3.9 million on Sunday, \$650,000 more than the \$3.25-million qualifying offer tabled by the Rangers. Zherdev, 24, appeared in 82 games with the Rangers last season, recording 23 goals and 35 assists with 39 penalty minutes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONWS.CA

## Flag-bearers selected for Canada Games

**NOVA SCOTIA** Softball pitcher Meghan Brown and swimmer David Sharpe will carry Nova Scotia's flag at the Canada Games.

Brown, from Lower Onslow, Colchester Co., will lead the blue and white in to the opening ceremonies in Summerside, P.E.I., on Aug. 15, while Sharpe, from Halifax, will do the same for the closing ceremonies on Aug. 29 in Charlottetown.

Brown, 18, was the top pitcher at the 2006 Eastern Canadian midget championships and an all-star at the same event in 2007. Sharpe, also 18, will start his freshman season with the Dalhousie Tigers in the fall. He set 36 provincial records in a one-year span starting in April 2008 and also won four medals at the Canadian age group championships in July.

METRO HALIFAX

## Herd's Desjardins doesn't make cut

**UNDER-18 TEAM** Halifax Mooseheads forward Gabriel Desjardins didn't make the cut for the Canadian under-18 men's hockey team yesterday.

The 22-man roster was announced for the Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament, which starts next Tuesday in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Four players from the QMJHL were selected to the squad.

Desjardins, a five-foot-11, 191-pound left-winger, had 13 goals and 12 assists for 25 points in 60 games last season and was named the Mooseheads' top rookie.

He will report to training camp at Cole Harbour Place starting Aug. 19.

METRO HALIFAX

## Sports in brief

**BASEBALL** Darren Doucette had a two-run home run as Dartmouth Moosehead Dry knocked off the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League-leading Halifax Pelham Molsom Canadians 7-4 last night at Mainland Common. Dartmouth, 12-6, is a half-game behind Halifax, 12-5.

METRO HALIFAX

# On track for big payday

Weekend win would put Wayne Smith one step closer to \$50,000 bonus

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**It'll be hard to blame Wayne Smith if he's seeing dollar signs as he circles the track at Scotia Speedworld on Saturday.**

The Timberlea stock-car racer — known locally as the Oval Outlaw — can move one step closer to earning an eye-popping \$50,000 bonus from the Carquest Pro Stock Tour at this weekend's Atlantic CAT 250 just outside Halifax.

The bonus is part of the tour's new Triple Crown series, and Smith is a third of the way there after winning last month's IWK 250 over NASCAR stars such as Regan Smith.

"I'd probably take the winter off work," joked Smith, of what he'd do if he can reel in the big prize. "That'd be definitely help pay the bills. You spend a lot of money out of your pocket (on racing), money you don't realize



Wayne Smith, seen here driving at right, can collect a \$50,000 bonus by winning two more races.

you've spent."

Smith is the defending Carquest champion and has a record five Maritime titles during his lengthy career. He figures he barely breaks even on most weekends, averaging less than \$1,000 in earnings despite his frequent top finishes.

ishes.

That said, winning the tour title last summer — a \$10,000 prize — was a big boost. But it puts in perspective what a \$50,000 bonus would mean for any driver on the tour.

"It's a good deal, it's big money, and it's good that

one of the locals is in contention," Smith said. "If one of the Americans had won (the IWK 250), they wouldn't have been back, so the hype for this race wouldn't have been here."

Smith's victory at the IWK 250 was his only checkered flag of the sum-

**"That'd be definitely help pay the bills. You spend a lot of money out of your pocket (on racing), money you don't realize you've spent."**

Wayne Smith

mer. He is fourth on the tour and just 16 points off the lead with three points races remaining.

But with only show points up for grabs at the Atlantic CAT 250, this weekend is all about chasing the big money.

"It'd be nice to win, but that \$50,000 ain't nothin' till you win this weekend," Smith said cautiously. "You have to win this weekend before it's something to talk about."

The final Triple Crown race is the Peterbilt 250, scheduled for Sept. 6 at Speedway 660 in Geary, N.B.

## Ruling not expected to end Coyotes battle

**AUCTION** The NHL, Jim Balsillie, various bidders, creditors and other interested parties with a stake in the Phoenix Coyotes are today waiting for a ruling from bankruptcy judge Redfield Baum, hoping to get some sense of the hockey club's future.

The only sure bet is that, whatever the judge rules, someone is going to be severely ticked off.

Baum is expected to hand down a decision on how the Sept. 10 auction of the Coyotes will be conducted, including whether Canadian billionaire Balsillie will be allowed to participate or whether it will be restricted to the two bidders who intend, after re-

working the team's arena lease, to keep the team in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale.

Balsillie, of course, wants to move the team to Hamilton and is pursuing his purchase of the team even though he has been unanimously rejected by the NHL's governors as a potential owner.

But don't expect today's ruling to be definitive or for it to end the soap-opera-like drama that has surrounded the Coyotes bankruptcy. Even Baum himself conceded that however the auction unfolds, it will likely be followed by endless litigation.

This case has been steeped in angry rhetoric

and finger pointing. Even yesterday, reacting to confidential information that was leaked on Friday — details of the concessions Jerry Reinsdorf was seeking from Glendale in his bid — Baum ordered Jerry Moyes, owner of the Coyotes, to show why he should not be held in contempt of court.

Baum ordered Moyes, his wife, Vicki, and their attorneys to appear at a show-cause hearing today after they allegedly violated a confidentiality order.

Glendale, in response to the information being revealed, is seeking financial compensation from Moyes and a further delay in the sale of team.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Grand Prix coming back to Montreal: F1 boss

**GRAND PRIX** For the first time since he pulled the extremely popular Canadian Grand Prix from the Formula One schedule due to a dispute over financial terms with its organizers,

Bernie Ecclestone, the head of F1, says it's coming back to Montreal.

Ecclestone's comments were published yesterday in the European racing magazine Motorsport Ak-

tuell.

"In 2010, we will return to Canada," Ecclestone said. "I know everyone in Formula One loves this Grand Prix."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Sports in brief

**HOCKEY** Former Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Franklin MacDonald has signed with the Liwest Blackwings of Austria's top professional league, the team's official site

reports. MacDonald spent the past three seasons under contract with the Florida Panthers, playing mostly in the American Hockey League.

METRO HALIFAX

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If left inside a vehicle during a hot, summer day, babies can become distressed in just five minutes, and in less than 40 minutes, a child or pet could suffer severe dehydration or heat stroke. SOURCE: B.C. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

# Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

## VW Eos: Hello sunshine

### Weekend trips made easy with convertible

JIL MCINTOSH  
for Metro Canada



Based on the Rabbit platform, the Volkswagen Eos is a convertible for both summer and winter.

There really aren't any bad convertibles on a sunny day, but some are better than others, and the Volkswagen Eos is a very good one.

At a base price of \$35,975, it isn't cheap. But it holds four people, and its retractable hardtop (no soft roof is available) means it can comfortably handle winter weather as well.

Based on the Rabbit platform, the Eos uses a 200-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, with a six-speed manual or optional six-speed Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG) in Trendline or Comfort-line trim. My top-line Silver-Red Edition tester comes only with the DSG, and starts at \$44,575.

The DSG, also called a

dual-clutch, is probably one of the best developments since transmissions first learned to shift themselves. It contains two gearboxes with clutches between them, one with even-numbered gears, the

other with odd-numbered. As soon as you're in first gear, the other side has second gear ready, so the shifts are almost immediate. Once that's done, third gear gets ready, and so on. These transmissions are

silky-smooth and all but seamless, along with increased fuel economy.

The roof folds into the trunk, and there's enough space when it's down that you can stow luggage for a weekend trip. The rear seat includes a pass-through for longer items such as skis.

The Eos is great to drive: power comes on smoothly, torque steer is well-managed, handling is accurate and the steering is nicely weighted. Even when the top is down, it feels confidently solid and tight, with no rattles or cowl shake.

Interior materials are good-quality and precisely fitted, with just enough metallic trim to look good but not garish.



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### Highlights

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### AutoPilot

**Michael Goetz**

Read this week's column at [metronews.ca/autopilot](http://metronews.ca/autopilot)

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## Study tip

If you're taking a continuing education course, find pockets of time to study. Read your course material while you commute, at lunch and when you can't sleep. Keep your notes with you at all times so you can review them when you have a few extra minutes. **ADULT-EDUCATION.SUITE101.COM**

# Continuing Education

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

## Adult learners in demand

ROBYN YOUNG  
for Metro Canada



**From jewelry-making to project management, continuing education programs across the country have a lot to offer.**

Academic institutions are stepping up their game in the continuing education department in response to overwhelming demand for professional and personal growth programs.

At the University of Ottawa, there's been a 15 per cent increase in demand for continuing education

programs, says Serge Blais, director of continuing education for the school.

The majority of their learners are government employees.

"They're trying to keep their skills above par," he said.

Some of the more popular programs are those dealing with project management or presentation skills, where students learn how to effectively facilitate meetings, manage interdisciplinary teams and do voice training.

While soft skills like these are gaining in popu-

larity in these tough economic times, more technical skills are also gaining steam.

One of the high-demand certificates at Dalhousie University's College of Continuing Education in Halifax is the certification program in Home Inspection.

"It started last year and it's been growing in popularity every semester," said Robert Moffatt, marketing manager for the college.

The certificate involves 10 modules that are 42 hours and cost \$530 each.

The increasingly competitive job market is respon-

sible for the boom in continued learning, said Jim Fremlin, co-ordinator at a Toronto employment resource centre.

An interest in lifelong learning looks good on any resumé, he added.

"That's a good indicator of an engaged person and someone who's going to be an engaged employee," said Fremlin, co-ordinator of the Parliament Street Employment Resource Centre with the Centre for Training and Education.

For professional development, soft skills programs like the new certificate in



An interest in learning looks good on a resumé, experts say.

Leadership Performance at Dalhousie are in demand.

The certificate includes courses on communication, mediation and presentation skills.

"It's the nuts and bolts of keeping an organization moving forward," said program director Pam Williams.

Fremlin said although employers like to see continued learning specifically related to a job, any demonstrated interest in lifelong learning, including personal growth courses, can give an employee the edge they need when applying for jobs or interviewing for them.

## Culinary classes put focus on healthy eating

CHRISTINA BILUK  
for Metro Halifax



When registered dietician Mary Sue Waisman moved from Calgary to Halifax, she wasn't sure what her future plans would be.

What she did know is that it would involve food. A trained chef, and author of two cookbooks, Waisman is one of the newest instructors in the Continuing Education program at Nova Scotia Community College.

This fall, she will be leading three culinary courses designed to showcase how easy (and inexpensive) it is to make healthy food choices. The courses encourage participants to take control over portion size, cost and ingredients used, in the meals they eat. Waisman points out that this is easy to do at home, if you know what you're looking for, but not as easy to do when eating out.

"I want to show people

**"I want to show people how nutrition comes alive through food."**

Mary Sue Waisman

how nutrition comes alive through food," she says. "People want their food to taste good; my courses are designed to show them how to do just that."

Cooking 101: Starting with the Basics gets people back into the kitchen by demonstrating the basics and dispelling myths. Participants will learn about cutting, food choices, and working with heat. The course focuses on tips for everyday eating, such as learning how to steam, grill, fry, sauté and bake.

The second course, Healthy Cooking that Actually Tastes Great, is designed for individuals with some cooking experience but who want to learn how to make healthy meals that taste great.

The third course, A Better

Way to Eat, pairs taste with nutrition, while exploring how to do it right from your home in Halifax. This course focuses on local foods, sustainability and how to be healthy on a budget.

Each of the three NSCC courses provides six hours of classroom time spread over three sessions. The classroom sessions combine interactive learning with cooking demonstrations, discussions and hands-on practice. There are no requirements aside from a passion for learning and cooking.

All three courses — which cost \$180 each, including food and cooking tools — are offered at the Metro Campus and are open for registration.

For more, visit [nsc.ca](http://nsc.ca).

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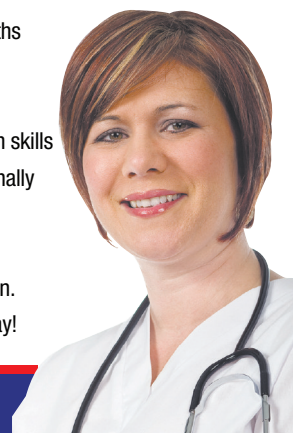
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## 12 continuing education

# SMU course out of this world

RICHARD WOODBURY  
for Metro Halifax



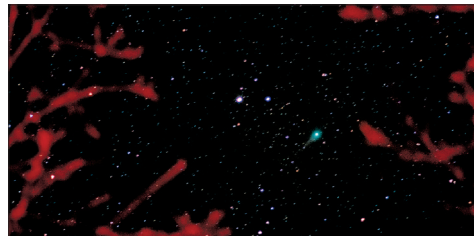
### Studying astronomy is a "mind-expander."

"It's like becoming a Buddhist or something," says Doug Pitcairn, a part-time professor at Saint Mary's University. He teaches a continuing education course called "The Sky and Planets."

After taking the course, Pitcairn says students walk away with "an appreciation of how insignificant the planet is, how insignificant in fact we are, and although humanity is everything to itself, it really isn't anything to the universe."

"It makes you think of these things more. It gives you a different perspective that is radically different from every other subject. There's no other subject that says, 'We are really nothing but a fungus.'"

He says students develop



Saint Mary's University offers a continuing education astronomy course entitled "The Sky and the Planets."

powerful feelings for protecting the environment.

"Much of the course discusses how horrible the environments are in space and the fact there really is nowhere else for us to be, except here."

"We can't go buy another one, we can't move to another one, we haven't found another one. All the ones we've found are uninhabitable."

This means we only have one chance to get it right, he says.

One of the course topics is timekeeping and the calendar. Historically, astronomy played a very important role with this topic.

"Timekeeping in astronomy was very important all the way back to the Assyrians and the ancient Egyptians using it to predict the Nile rising and so on. It was all done by watching the stars because they had no choice, nothing else was available. There were no clocks."

Some of the other course

topics include the motions and phases of the moon and planets, introduction to the night sky and eclipses of the sun and moon

Former student Geof Lewington says the course allowed him to get "a small taste of big-time astronomy." He fondly remembers using the school observatory for class projects and says that seeing the surface of the moon in detail was amazing.

Lewington says he walked away from the course with a greater appreciation of "the inherent harmonies of the solar system — the movement of the planets around the sun, of the moon around the earth, and of the tides and seasons."

The course does not have any pre-requisites and is open to anyone. Those interested in signing up can do so by contacting the admissions office at SMU.

# Digital movie making a hit at NSCAD

CHRISTINA BILUK  
for Metro Halifax



NSCAD has recently expanded its extended studies offerings to include weekend, evening and community collaboration projects.

The school has begun to offer programs with community partners that extend across Nova Scotia and provide opportunities for at-risk youth and the aging population to participate. By getting into the communities, individuals can participate with local artists (both professional and emerging) to continue their pursuit of lifelong learning.

The school is eager to continue building the community collaboration projects and is looking for Nova Scotians to come in with great ideas, and NSCAD will aid in making them happen.

One of the popular Extended Studies programs offered is Claire Hodge's Introduction to Digital Movie Making. Hodge, a NSCAD Masters program graduate, specializes in using video for non-commercial purposes to express interest, insight and learning. Her past students range from aspiring filmmakers to teachers interested in finding a new method to engage their students.

"The great thing about this course is that the participants get to experience a whole range of activity from concept planning to shooting and production and post-production editing," she says. "The course provides an opportunity to taste several different areas of filmmaking."

The small class size (there are only eight students) provides the close-knit group with an opportunity to talk about their aspirations, challenges and brainstorm with their colleagues. While some of the participants start the course with an idea in mind, many more find their inspiration once they set foot in the classroom.

The course provides students access to DV camcorders, Mac computers with iMovie HD editing software and time in the NSCAD editing suite outside of class hours.

During the course, aspiring filmmakers participate in a series of exercises that help them develop their projects, such as "learning how to shoot expressively." From documentaries to travel videos, and instructional videos to behaviour changing pieces, the types of movies developed really depend on the participants.

NSCAD's Introduction to Digital Movie Making starts on Sept. 14. For more, go to nscad.ca.

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# NSCC course focuses on card-reading

**RICHARD WOODBURY**  
for Metro Halifax

**Karen Mombourquette has been doing card-readings for a long time.**

"I actually started doing Tarot readings and palm readings for friends and family and schoolmates at

the age of 15 or 16," says the 42-year-old instructor of the cartomancy (card-reading) course at the Nova Scotia Community College.

The course will be offered in two sessions, one beginning Sept. 22, and the other Nov. 5.

"I was intuitive growing up and I just knew things

about people," she says.

The course will allow students to gain a better understanding of the whole card-reading process, says Mombourquette.

"Traditionally, you don't know what the process is," she says of when people go for a card-reading.

"You see the cards and you see the pictures. You might even see a word or two on them, but you don't really understand what is happening and the reader is giving you information based on those cards."

Course topics include a history of card-reading, an introduction to the various decks and how to choose one which suits your style.

Mombourquette says the reason students take the course varies.

"Sometimes, it's people exploring their spirituality and this is one of the routes they are taking to explore that," she says. For some, it's because they want to do readings for themselves or for others.

"Anybody can learn it," says Mombourquette, but she cautions that how good

one gets depends on how in depth they want to go.

"I can teach you a recipe for the day, but I can't teach you to be a baker."

A card-reading can be viewed as a snapshot in time.

"It's what's going to happen if nothing changes," she says. "Everything can change."

And for those who don't think they are intuitive enough to take a course like this, Mombourquette says everybody is intuitive, just in different ways.

"Some people will pick up intuitively on emotions," she says, such as happiness or sadness.

"Some people are mental based," meaning they

can pick up on people's thoughts.

"Some are both," she adds.

The class takes place over two evenings and totals six hours in length.

Registration is now open for the course and students can sign-up online, over the phone, in person or by fax.



The cartomancy course will be offered in two sessions.



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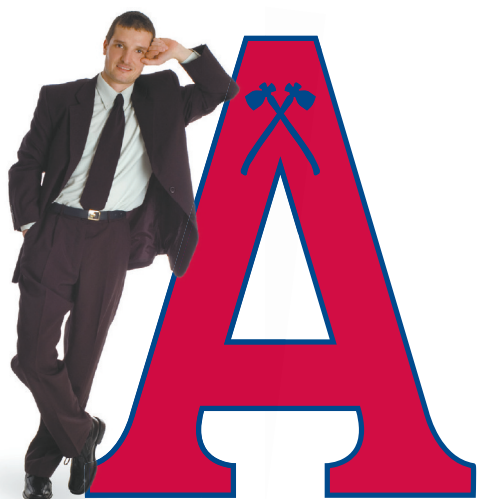
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iLounge.com notes that Apple has added a new Travel Guide section to the iTunes Store. "Found on the right-hand side of the main iTunes storefront under More In Music, (it) offers links to destination applications, podcasts, audiobooks" and lots more. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Travel



## Standing room

According to the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), "at least two very low-cost carriers are entertaining the idea of transporting passengers in an upright manner — standing up! ... Spring Air, China's self-proclaimed first low-cost carrier is looking for permission from regulators to install 'standing seats' that would cost less than traditional seats... (and Ryanair) is looking to Boeing for a design that would permit stools or railings for passengers to be strapped to." See [iapa.com](http://iapa.com) for more details. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

# Syria flaunts its hidden treasures

## Trove of historical landmarks awaits Western tourists

**Iranian pilgrims pray beside Arabs at the 8th century Umayyad Mosque, one of Islam's grandest sites. Down a nearby alley, European tourists watch restoration work at an Ottoman-era palace being converted into a hotel.**

"I've not seen such contrast between image and the reality," said German tourist Anna Kopola, looking at Syrian art on display in a gallery in the capital, Damascus. "Syria is portrayed as a centre of terror-

ism in the West but it's peaceful and modern."

While tourists have long travelled to see Egypt's pyramids, tense ties with the West made Syria a no-go zone for decades.

Few have heard of the magnificent ruins at Dura Europos, a Greco-Roman city dubbed the Pompeii of the desert, or Krak des Chevaliers, among the world's greatest Crusader castles.

But a rapprochement with the West — Syria re-

cently invited U.S. President Barack Obama to Damascus for talks — and the gradual liberalization of an economy that long shunned foreign input are helping Syria shed its pariah state image.

"Nicolas Sarkozy's visit last year was a boost," Antoine Mamarbachi, a tour operator said of the French president. "Syria is no longer a persona non grata."

Tourist numbers rose 15 per cent last year and Tourism Minister Saadallah Agha al-Qalaa expects 40,000 new hotel beds to become available in the next three years, up from 48,000 now.

Demand has grown so fast, he said, that Syrian tourism may escape the impact of the global downturn that has hit the sector worldwide. Tourism already accounts for 13 per cent of Syria's gross domestic product and will only become more important as the Arab country's dwindling oil production falls further.

Syria has so far tended to attract visitors from other parts of the Middle East, who are less perturbed by its image and more interested in its beach resorts.

Two-thirds of visitors last year were Arab, but promotional campaigns by the state and tour operators over the last year have targeted high-end Europeans.

As the East-West crossroads of the ancient world, Syria has been a trade hub for centuries, attracting European adventurers from



Above, the ruins of Palmyra. Right, Western tourists visit the Ottoman-era Takiyah Suleimanieh mosque complex in Damascus.

Lawrence of Arabia to Freya Stark.

Dura Europos, the ruined walled city above the banks of the Euphrates, produced early examples of Judaic and Christian art. The Umayyad dynasty made Damascus the capital of a Muslim empire that stretched to Spain.

Read more on page 15 »

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**Best podcast of the year**

According to the Daily Telegraph, the "best audio travel podcast of the year so far is iKangaroo's Angels and Demons walking tour of Rome, iKangaroo.com. City expert Chris Carriero guides you around the sights, art, architecture and history of the film's locations in seven episodes." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

travel **15**

G. DAVID ORTIZ/ACOSTINI PICTURE LIBRARY

Syria's Krak des Chevaliers, a fortress that's among the world's great Crusader castles.

>> Continued from page 14

Legend has it that two heads are buried beneath the Ummayyad Mosque — those of John the Baptist and Imam Hussein, an early Islamic figure whose killing in 680 AD cemented Shi'ite-Sunni splits.

But Syria's modern history has been dominated by its struggle with Israel and Soviet-style policies since the Baath Party's 1963 coup that reduced it to an economic backwater.

The United States imposed sanctions on Syria in 2004 and the government faces two United Nations

investigations, although tensions have eased in recent months and Washington said in June it would appoint an ambassador to Damascus after a four-year hiatus.

"The business environment in Syria is still poorer than its neighbours, but this is a virgin market and the fact that so many investors are coming shows that the risk is worth taking," said Jihad Yazigi, editor of the Syria Report online newsletter.

Only in the past decade has Syria eased restrictions on foreign exchange and banking and allowed com-

panies to transfer profits abroad. But it remains among the world's hardest places to do business, according to World Economic Forum study.

Courts lack safeguards against political interference and the workforce lacks language skills and training. Yet the risks have not put off investors from the oil-exporting Gulf.

Qatari Diyar, a real estate company owned by the Qatar Investment Authority, is building a \$350 million resort on the Mediterranean coast. Kuwait's Kharafi group is building a 361-room hotel

in Damascus. Global hotel brands including Movenpick, Kempinski and Holiday Inn also plan developments.

"Syria is a bargain, although it needs to develop its infrastructure," said Kuwaiti businessman Abdul Hameed Dashti.

In the covered souqs of Old Damascus, Western tourists now shop for Syrian kilims and amble from the tomb of the Mamluk ruler Baibars to courtyard houses-turned-boutique hotels.

Repeated wars have left scars on Syria's neighbour Lebanon but those tourists who do make the journey often combine it with a short drive to Damascus.

Construction across Syria has been chaotic but investors are taking increasing care to preserve the character of Old Damascus and Aleppo, realizing that this is what many Europeans crave.

Opened a year ago, Beit Zaman hotel is a painstakingly restored 300-year-old courtyard house located on Damascus' Roman-era Straight Street, which is mentioned in the Bible. The hotel now hosts luxury tourists and special events.

REUTERS

## Top cities to visit with children



JEFF MOORE

Santa Domingo church in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Many cities can be overwhelming for young travellers, but some are as much fun for the kids as the grown-ups. Lonely Planet's Travel With Children guide lists the world's best cities to visit with children.

**1 Oaxaca, Mexico:** This colourful Mexican city is pint-sized, charming and fun to explore on foot. A central plaza provides plenty of run-around space for kids and there's a vibrant market; visitmexico.com.

**2 Istanbul:** With its mosques, palaces, museums, bazaars, multicoloured carpets, food markets, Bosphorus cruises and sweet apple tea, the children will be fascinated and enchanted; tourismturkey.org.

**3 London:** You could stay in London for a whole

year and find interesting things to do with the children every day. In summer don't miss out on playing in the fountains at Somerset House; visitlondon.com.

**4 Los Angeles:** A good destination for teenagers — choose between the original Disneyland, Universal Studios and Santa Monica. There's heaps to see and do in this sprawling city that encapsulates the American Dream; discoverlosangeles.com.

**5 Vancouver:** Vancouver is frequently named the most liveable city in the world. There's lots of water as well as beaches, a huge urban park (Stanley Park) and numerous hiking and biking trails. Plus, all the attractions of the Rocky Mountains are near by; vancouver.ca/visitors.htm.

REUTERS



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In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

# Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## Women's softball at SFU

Simon Fraser University held a sod-turning ceremony yesterday for a playing field for its women's softball team, which has been without a home field since its inception in 1990. The project is being funded by a \$500,000 donation from the Keith and Betty Beedie Foundation to SFU Athletics' Bring Our Teams Home campaign.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## A playwright's tale

Writing for the stage can be a hard and lonely business

### Backstage Pass

JON TATTRE  
for Metro Canada

The process of getting a play out of the writer's head and onto the stage is a long and winding one. Governor General Award-winning playwright Catherine Banks wrote her first play in 1983. She learned a lot from the process, but it never saw the light of stage; her first performed play came in 1991.

"I started writing that play the week I brought my newborn daughter home from (the hospital) and it was produced the year she entered primary," the Nova Scotian playwright says.



Creating a play demands imagination, deep pockets and a full commitment to the story, playwright Catherine Banks says.

wright says of The Summer of the Piping Plover. "It felt really wonderful when that play opened because I had learned I could do it."

Playwriting can be a hard, lonely business, with no guarantee your work will ever be performed. Banks' big breakthrough

came last year, when Bone Cage won the coveted GG.

"It was validation shot through with joy!" she says.

Getting a play performed can be an arduous process. She had to secure funding from government agencies and sink a lot of her own cash into Bone Cage. By

then, Banks was fully committed to the play's darkly humorous story of Jamie and Chicky growing up in rural Nova Scotia.

"Why would any character ever come to me again if I didn't see the characters of Bone Cage all the way to the stage?" she wonders.

After studying acting at university, Banks honed her skills at local writing workshops. Many institutes such as Dalhousie University offer courses on playwriting as part of theatre programs. UBC offers an MFA in creative writing and theatre (playwriting) and students at Concordia can major in playwriting.

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: [metronews.ca/work](http://metronews.ca/work)

## Work contracts not mandatory

### WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

[Metronews.ca/workplacelaw](http://Metronews.ca/workplacelaw)

It's possibly the worst fraud in workplace law — corporations, with expensive lawyers and deeper pockets, requiring their employees to sign one-sided employment contracts that reduce their legal rights. And employees, without bargaining power or an understanding of the law, not realizing their interests have been undermined.

What most people don't understand is that a written employment contract is not a requirement of employment. This is because the law implies a number of essential terms and conditions, such as termination, fair treatment and duration among others, and it does so whether or not they are written down. However, as many of those implied terms are considered too employee-generous, most companies insist that employees sign contracts that reduce those implied rights. Employees then unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, demoted, see their salary slashed and prevented from competition following their departure — all with legal impunity.

Don't misunderstand. Employees are not entirely without recourse. The Supreme Court has recognized the unique nature of the employment contract and the inherent power imbalance when negotiating terms. As a result, judges have created various devices to prevent unfairness. If the contract is ambiguous, illegal, provides less than employment standards legislation or is entered into under duress or coercion, it may be set aside.

While these devices provide a level of protection, they still ignore some fundamental truths. First, employees seldom negotiate contracts and if they do, it's rarely on equal footing.

Either they fear the job offer will be withdrawn and offered to a competitor or they are simply told the language will not be changed. In today's job market, their fears are not unfounded. Employers, then, usually have their way.

As well, the legal doctrine of freedom contract, which provides employers the right to offer employment on their own terms, is still recognized today, regardless if it is in conflict with practical workplace reality. Therefore, if a contract has been reviewed and executed before employment begins, an employee is often held to the deal that was made, whether fair or not and sometimes many years later.

How do these contracts affect workers? In a file my law firm is handling, the employee had been recruited away from a large American technology firm where he worked for eight years, to join a Canadian competitor. Before he began, he signed what he was told was a "standard form" contract. Six months later he was fired.

It was a simple win — or so he thought. He had a strong claim to make his new employer responsible for the severance he was owed from his old job. But the contract he signed specifically prevents him from making that claim and worse, limits his damages to only one week's pay. Although the conclusion to his case will probably be based on other factors that are involved, there is one certainty: Without that contract, his case would be stronger.

What should employees do? Challenge the enforceability of these contracts, where the facts present them with that argument. I have won in court by raising the inference that a signed contract was without proper consent — such findings are not exceptions. Have any new contract reviewed with a lawyer and don't be reluctant to renegotiate terms.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; [dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com](http://dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com).



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: MIDWIFE

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This position reports to the Manager of the Children and Women's Health Unit, Chief of Staff and works under direction of the Head Midwife at St. Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish.

**Qualifications:** Must be registered or eligible for registration with the Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia. Current certification in CPR, NRP, Obstetrical Emergency Skills. Able to work flexible hours. Collaborate and work closely with other health professionals. Demonstrate excellent communication skills. Eligible for liability insurance coverage purchased by GASHA. Own a dependable vehicle. Recent criminal record check. Demonstrated good work and attendance record.

**Model of Care:** Shared collaborative care, each midwife will be named primary care giver to approximately 40 women per year. Shared on call schedule. Salary information available upon request.

*Antigonish: The university town of Antigonish is located in beautiful Nova Scotia. Ten beaches are within close proximity. Antigonish has a vibrant cultural life and a variety of excellent restaurants serving the best sea food. We are approximately 1.5 hours from the Halifax airport.*

Interested applicants please submit resume to: Helen Muir, Human Resources Coordinator, Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority, 25 Bay Street, Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2G5  
Tele: (902) 867-4429; Fax: (902) 863-6455 Email: [humanresources@gasha.nshealth.ca](mailto:humanresources@gasha.nshealth.ca)

*Applications to be submitted by: This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.*

**Jackman joins Barnum musical**

Hugh Jackman will unleash his singing skills on screen for a musical focused on legendary showman P.T. Barnum. Jenny Bicks is writing the script for Fox. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONWS.CA

## Filmmakers toying around

**STEVE GOW**  
for Metro Canada

**If Hollywood gets its way this weekend, we will all soon be going to theatres to take in thrillers about Stretch Armstrong, He-Man and even the popular board game Monopoly.**

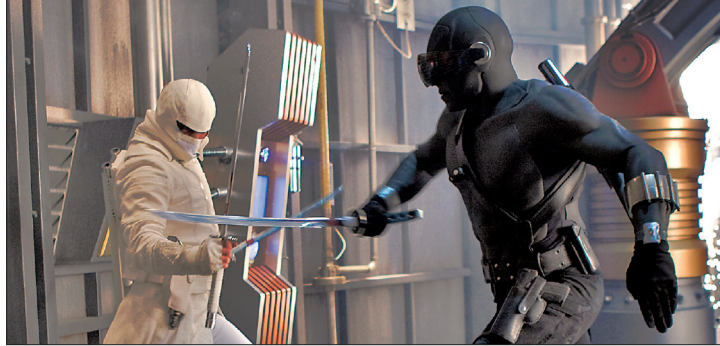
That's because this Friday's theatrical release of G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra will firmly establish the latest trend in filmmaking — movies based on popular toys.

Of course, it's not a completely novel idea. Even before Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen racked up over \$380 million (and counting) this summer, there had been earlier proverbial dips of the toe

in the toy genre. But why have retro-toy movies become so popular?

"It's an escape from economic issues, woes and stress," said Transformers star Megan Fox recently. "People need to get away from reality and I think watching a movie about toys is a good way to numb your brain to things you don't want to be dealing with in life."

That nostalgic flight may be influential but there's also an entirely more strategic game working behind the scenes. With two major toy companies (Hasbro, Mattel) now aggressively paired with Hollywood's top talent agencies, it seems the toymakers are cross-pollinating their product with the cinema



G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, which is based on the popular toy line, opens in theatres this Friday.

directly.

In fact, Hasbro (both Transformers and G.I. Joe) has set up a six-year deal with Universal Pictures to obtain more authority on their toys' image.

"I think what we're seeing in the world at large is the power of brands distinguishing themselves," Universal Pictures Chairman Marc Shmuger recently told The Business Insider.

"As we're gripped with fear and anxiety, we look for something we can rely on and trust ... so the value of brands has changed, (and with it) what the owners of the brands want to accom-

### The Brit Awards

Britney Spears has done it again. The singer has been nominated for seven MTV Video Music Awards. Last year, the pop princess took home three Moon Man trophies for Piece of Me. [EONLINE.COM](http://EONLINE.COM)

### Movie feature

plish changes too."

In addition to the aforementioned toys being turned into movies, other products in film development include board games like Battleship (with Hancock director Peter Berg attached) and Candy Land (written by Tropic Thunder's Etan Cohen).

As well, expect future movies about Hot Wheels, Masters of the Universe and even 1960s-era action figure Major Matt Mason — which is linked to none other than Tom Hanks. And when you've pervaded the influence of such A-list actors as Hanks, you know you've made it in Hollywood.

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/5/09	31	31	31	ABC	News Center 5	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wipeout (HDTV) (N)	(10:02) I Survived a Japanese Game Show		
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	Gary Unnarr	America's Got Talent	Monk
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Dragon's Den (HDTV)		The Tudors (DVS)		CBC News: The National	The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Dre Grey, leçons d'anatomie		Des squelettes	L'Épicerie (N)	La Petite Séduction (N) (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unnarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	CSI: NY
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Sûreté-salé	Les Gags	Histoires-filles	Les Anges de la rénovation		Gary Kurtz: Juste une illusion	TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Philanthropist (N)		Wipeout (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) In Plain Sight	News Final (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	Corner Gas	Hollywood	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Instvgt.		So You Think You Can Dance	News
	10	10	10	ELTV	Incl. Revolution	Build It	Fuelin' Around	Au Natural	Doc Talk	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	So You Think You Can Dance	So You Think You Can Dance	So You Think You Can Dance	Fox First
prime time	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	TV's 50 Funniest Phrases	America's Got Talent	Philanthropist	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour	CBC News: The National	The Ugly Truth	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Time Team America (N)		Great Performances "Hilman: David Foster and Friends"		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Time Team America (N)		Facing the Mortgage Crisis	Green Builders
	68	68	68	TQS	Rire et délire	Chemin du golf	La Guerre des	10 façons	Entourage	Entourage	Bob Graton	Californication
	23	23	23	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Taking Stock	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	European Tour	The Golf Fix	Quest-Card	19th Hole	Tin Cup *** (1996, Comedy) Kevin Costner, Rene Russo.		
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Connected		UFC: Access	MMA Conn	UFC Top 100 Fights		Countdown to UFC 101	Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	(6) HSR		RaceNight					Score Tonight
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	MLB Baseball	NHL New York Yankees at	Toronto Blue Jays.	From Rogers Centre in Toronto.		SportsCentre
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Two	Jiminy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad
	26	26	26	TREE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos
	27	27	27	TYV	iCarly	iCarly	In Real Life "The Circus"		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline Proj
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Identity"		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Beach
	70	70	70	APTN	APTN National News (N)		Canadian Geographic		Reel Insights The history of Herschel Island.		Vitality	Miyayawin
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)				Light It Up ** (1999, Drama) Usher Raymond.			The Game
	37	37	37	BRVO	Wind at My Back		The Achievers	BravoVideos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield
news	25	25	25	CMT	Hottest Men of Country		Project Dad	Project Dad	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Police Videos
	153	153	153	COURT	Struggle for Justice		World's Wildest	Police Videos	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified	Police Videos
	38	38	38	DISC	Qubit (N)	Qubit (N)	Daily Planet		Day of the Shark 2 (N)		Deadliest Catch	Mayday
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Hide Potential
	46	46	46	HIST	Crime Stories		NCIS "Grace Period"		Cities of the Underworld		Ice Road Truckers	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Making His Band		One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Making His Band	Video on Trial
	19	19	19	MMM	mmtp10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew	Entourage
	201	201	201	M1	(5:45) Appaloosa		Hairspray *** (2007, Musical Comedy) John Travolta.		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Pinapple Express ** (2008, Comedy)	Survivorman
	48	48	48	OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman	Ghost Hunters
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bandits ** (2001, Comedy) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton.		Franc *** (1988, Suspense)	Franc *** (1988, Suspense)
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:10) The Score (2001, Crime Drama)			(8:20) Net Worth	1995, Docudrama			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grandes reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		The Guard (HDTV)		Destination: Infestation (2007, Suspense)	
	40	40	40	SLICE	Chic Couples	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Stargate Atlantis	(DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval	Stormworld (N)
	14	14	14	LA SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Instvgt.		CSI: Crime Scene Instvgt.		UFC's Ultimate 100		Ultimate Fighting Championship 95:	
	97	97	97	STAR	Living the Life	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Hollywood	Canada's Next Top Model	Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Ultimate Cake Off		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	I Didn't Know	I Didn't Know
	56	34	34	TROP	North of 60		The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What Happen?	What Happen?	Are You Smarter	Family Guy
cable variety	20	20	20	TVS	Que. champion	Journal de Fr2			Je m'appelle Elisabeth (2006) Stéphane Freiss.		Raison...autre	Tout ça
	28	28	28	V	MythQuest		Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	Doc Martin	Recreat. Eden
	60	97	97	VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Judging Amy		Medium		The Closer	Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Love It or List It	Wicked Minds
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	TwoHalf Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model	WGN News

### critics' corner

#### The Philanthropist

Rhoda Shivpuri, one of Teddy and Philip's college friends, asks for help negotiating with the Indian and Pakistani governments in an effort to rebuild the water system in the Kashmir region. Philip and Dax (Michael Kenneth Williams) must lead a desperate manhunt after Teddy goes missing in a war-torn sector in the new episode "Kashmir." 8 PM on CIHF



#### Net Worth

These days, when professional athletes command huge salaries, it may be hard to believe there was a time when they were paid peanuts. But in the National Hockey League of the 1950s, players made very little. This 1995 docudrama chronicles the efforts of some NHL players, chiefly Ted Lindsay of the Detroit Red Wings, to change that by forming a union. 8:40 AM on P1X

#### The Tudors

No more His Majesty Mr. Nice Guy. Disgusted by his repeated failed attempts to get the Catholic Church to annul his marriage to Katherine, Henry (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) cuts all ties with the Vatican, putting Lutheran Thomas Cranmer (Hans Matheson) in charge of the Church of England. He also strips Katherine (Maria Doyle Kennedy) of her title and weds Anne (Natalie Dormer) in secret in this episode. 9 PM on CBC

Weekdays @ 9pm

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- Drake - Best I Ever Had
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**1013 THE BOUNCE**





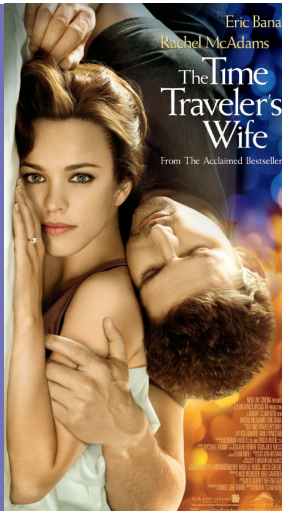
Michael Douglas' son Cameron Douglas has been arrested in New York on a drug charge, according to media reports. Douglas, 30, was arrested at the Hotel Gansevoort in Manhattan and faces a methamphetamine-dealing charge. **PEOPLE.COM**

**Douglas son's drug charge**

## Celebrity Buzz

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## Mischa gets off to a rough start

**STUMBLING BLOCKS** Mischa Barton's return to her social life hasn't been going too smoothly, according to Page Six.

A source spotted the actress out Saturday night in NYC's West Village where Barton was "having a disastrous dinner" with a group of girls.

"She was upset and talking frantically into her phone about having a stalker," the source said. "Her friends were trying to console her, but she went outside and chain-smoked cigarettes."

The next night, Barton attended a party where someone spilled a drink on her dress.

**METRO  
WORLD NEWS**



## Hilton mom remembers Michael

**NOSTALGIA** Kathy Hilton, Paris' mom, was devastated by the recent loss of her lifelong "special friend" Michael Jackson, people.com reports.

"I have never lost anybody that I went to school with that I was close to in a friendship (that lasted) all these years," she told People.

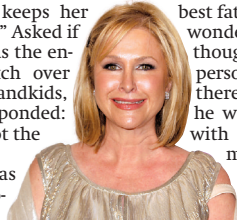
Hilton believes that the late singer's mother Katherine will be a positive guardian for the kids.

"I adore Mrs. Jackson.

Katherine is the rock," said Hilton. "It is like Camp Jackson, all of those kids. All the aunts, the uncles, the children come there. She plays Scrabble with them. She loves it. I think that's what keeps her really young." Asked if Katherine has the energy to watch over her three grandkids, Hilton responded: "Oh, she's got the energy."

Hilton has fond memo-

ries of Jackson: "He was so much more normal than people know. He really was. He loved to giggle and have fun. I spent time with him, had dinners," she said. "He was the best father ... He was a wonderful, kind, thoughtful, caring person. He would be there for people and he was so generous with his time and money."



**METRO NEWS  
SERVICES**

## 'I'm not, but if I was...'

**FANNING THE FLAMES** If Gerard Butler was dating Jennifer Aniston, he'd be the first to admit it, people.com quotes him as saying.

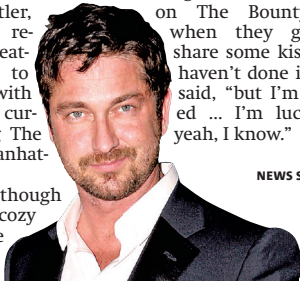
"If I was, I would say I was," the actor told British TV show GMTV on Monday. Butler, 39, has been recently and repeatedly linked to Aniston, 40, with whom he's currently filming *The Bounty* in Manhattan.

But even though the two look cozy in photos, he says there is

nothing to it. "It's just that if you're not married in Hollywood and you're working with somebody else who's single, you're having a thing with her."

And just to add fuel to the fire, Butler says he's looking forward to the day on *The Bounty* set when they get to share some kisses. "I haven't done it yet," said, "but I'm excited ... I'm lucky — yeah, I know."

**METRO  
NEWS SERVICES**



## Details about Jude's fling emerge

**THE NITTY-GRITTY** More details are emerging about how Jude Law first met Samantha Burke, the American model who is pregnant with the actor's fourth child.

The pair met in January outside a New York nightclub after it closed at 4 a.m., according to the Sun, when Law took Burke to a nearby diner before retiring to his hotel room.

Sources say the affair lasted barely a week. Pals of Burke insist she was no party animal before meeting Law.

"She's actually innocent and inexperienced when it comes to men," a high school friend told the newspaper.

**METRO  
WORLD NEWS**



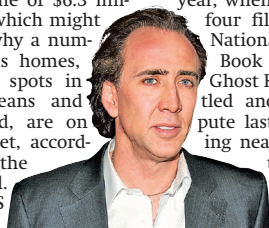
## Nick ticks off the tax man

**WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW** Nicolas Cage has reportedly run afoul of the tax man to the tune of \$6.3 million US, which might explain why a number of his homes, including spots in New Orleans and Hollywood, are on the market, according to the Daily Mail.

The IRS

has filed court papers seeking millions from Cage for the 2007 fiscal year, when he starred in four films, including *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* and *Ghost Rider*. Cage settled another tax dispute last year by paying nearly \$1 million to the IRS.

**METRO WORLD  
NEWS**



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Here is this week's top diarrhea disaster:

"I was in Cozumel, Mexico on a cruise stop, and had just finished lunch at a dockside restaurant. On my way back to the ship to grab something, my stomach started to turn and I knew something was wrong. I ran to the closest bathroom, but it was out of order. I ran to the next one, but it was full. I decided to try to run for the ship. Midway there I realized that I was never gonna make it in time, so rather than go in my pants, I dove off the dock, clothes and all, and found relief in the warm Mexican sea! When people asked why I jumped in the water suddenly like that, I told them my expensive cell phone slipped out of my hand and I wanted to retrieve it!" - S. Keogh

Submit your story today at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes August 26, 2009 at 11:59 pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details visit [www.metronews.ca](http://www.metronews.ca)

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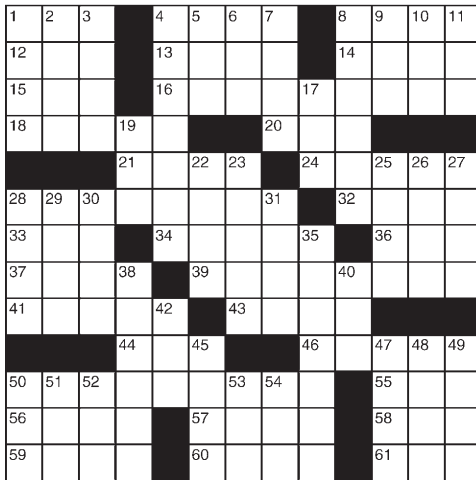


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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



### ACROSS

- 1 Request
- 4 MacDonald's place
- 8 Woman of the knight
- 12 Skedaddle
- 13 Curved molding
- 14 Bloodhound's clue
- 15 Lemieux milieu
- 16 Ruthless, as a competition
- 18 Winning
- 20 Twitch
- 21 Honey bunch?
- 24 PAC's concern
- 28 Likely loser
- 32 Swampy terrain
- 33 "A pox upon thee!"
- 34 Above, to an editor
- 36 Predetermine
- 37 Watch wolfishly
- 39 Carnival
- goer's lunch, maybe

- 41 Bookcase component
- 43 "Wheel of Fortune" option
- 44 Commotion
- 46 Legerdemain
- 50 Basic swimming stroke
- 55 Praise in verse
- 56 Rainbow
- 57 Slay
- 58 Antiquated
- 59 Kelly or Siskel
- 60 Calendar abbr.
- 61 Turn blue?

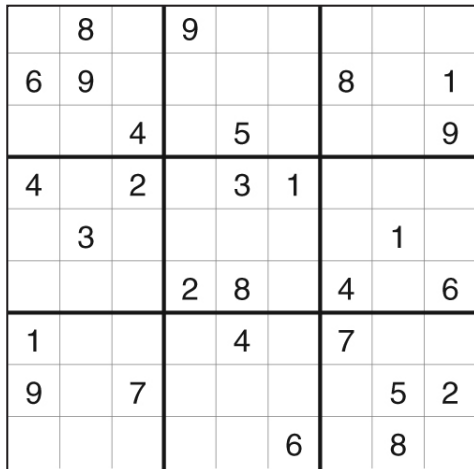
### DOWN

- 1 Met melody
- 2 Similar things
- 3 Elbow counterpart
- 4 Animals' entrees
- 5 In olden times
- 6 Rule, for short
- 7 Encounter
- 8 E-business
- 9 Toss into the mix
- 10 Cattle call
- 11 Work unit
- 17 Have a bug
- 19 Honest politician
- 22 Learning (Abbr.)
- 23 Future juniors
- 25 Shuttlecock
- 26 Vivacity, to the maestro
- 27 Safecracker
- 28 Fleet from far away?
- 29 Approaching
- 30 Takeout order?
- 31 Clench
- 35 Food
- 38 Pass by
- 40 — jiffy
- 42 Medicine approval org.
- 45 Probability
- 47 Suitable
- 48 Without acting
- 49 Relinquish
- 50 Use a shovel
- 51 Raw rock
- 52 Card-player's call
- 53 Fawn's mama
- 54 Back talk

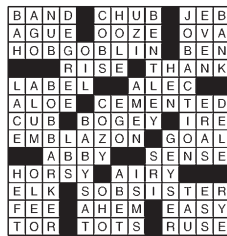
### Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



3	4	6	9	8	7	2	1	5
9	8	2	4	5	1	7	6	3
5	1	7	3	6	2	8	4	9
7	5	4	8	1	9	3	2	6
8	3	9	2	4	6	5	7	1
2	6	1	7	3	5	4	9	8
4	7	3	1	9	8	6	5	2
1	2	5	6	7	3	9	8	4
6	9	8	5	2	4	1	3	7



### Metro Recipe of the Day



### Two-cheese Soufflé

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 5 large eggs
  - 3/4 cup (175 ml) 1% milk
  - 2 tbsp (25 ml) all-purpose flour
  - 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
  - Several dashes hot red pepper sauce
  - 1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Colby cheese
  - 1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Swiss cheese

### METHOD:

1. Separate eggs. Discard 2 yolks. Place egg whites in medium bowl. Place egg yolks in small bowl. Set aside.
2. Preheat oven to 325 F (160 C). Make foil collar and attach to 1-1/2-qt (1.5-l) soufflé dish. Lightly grease foil collar and soufflé dish. In small pot, whisk milk, flour, salt and red pepper sauce. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Cook and stir 2 minutes

more, until thickened and bubbly. Add cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat.

3. Whisk egg yolks until light. Add some hot cheese mixture to yolks, then slowly whisk all of yolk mixture into cheese mixture.

4. With electric mixer on high, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Stir one-fourth of whites into hot cheese mixture, then quickly fold in remaining whites. Spoon into prepared soufflé dish. Make top hat. Bake 45 minutes or until puffy and golden. Serve immediately.

**SERVES 4**

### rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



### Horoscopes by Sally Brompton [sallybrompton.com](http://sallybrompton.com)

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

#### ARIES

**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
There really is no limit to what you can accomplish, though your efforts are more likely to bring success if you focus on what is important.

#### LIBRA

**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
Don't waste time dreaming and scheming of ways to turn back the clock. You know it can't be done.

#### TAURUS

**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
Someone you are close to will be emotionally demanding, but if you put yourself out for them now it will save you a lot of problems later on.

#### SCORPIO

**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
You are not the type to keep your opinions to yourself but be aware that if you deliberately antagonize someone today, they will hit back at you later.

#### GEMINI

**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
What you do with your life is limited only by the boundaries you allow your mind to impose on your actions. There are no limits. All things are possible.

#### SAGITTARIUS

**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
If you feel like packing your bags and heading off into the wide blue yonder by all means do so. Don't hesitate for even a second.

#### CANCER

**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
The Sun in the most worldly area of your chart makes this a good time to look at what you own and earn. Try something different.

#### CAPRICORN

**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
Life moves in cycles and the cycle you are experiencing seems like you are taking too many backward steps.

#### LEO

**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
This is one of the best times of the year for getting things done, both in your personal life and in your work, so don't hold back.

#### AQUARIUS

**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
You tend to see the world in terms of black and white, but at some point today you will realize that too narrow a viewpoint can be self-defeating.

#### VIRGO

**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
The Sun's transit of the most sensitive sector of your chart means you won't be able to fool either yourself or other people.

#### PISCES

**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
Assess your priorities and decide what is worth devoting your time and energy to and what can and must be ignored. Aim for quality work.

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### This day in history

AUGUST 5, 1305: William Wallace, who led Scottish resistance to England, is captured by the English near Glasgow and transported to London for trial and execution.

AUGUST 5, 1735: Freedom of the press: New York Weekly Journal writer John Peter Zenger is acquitted of seditious libel against the royal governor of New York, on the basis that what he published was true.

AUGUST 5, 1861: American Civil War: In order to help pay for the war effort, the United States government levies the first income tax as part of the Revenue Act of 1861 (3 per cent of all incomes over \$800 US; rescinded in 1872).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Actor Law took to court (1)
2. Primary walking stick (1)
3. Pleasant horror-movie actor Vincent (1)
4. Kansas City NFLers' coral ridges (1)
5. Appeared to be addicted (1)
6. More bluntly candid S&L exec (2)
7. Giving A+ to F for plaiting hair (2)

ANSWERS: 1. LOOKED HOODED 2. MAIN CANE 3. NICE PRICE 4. CHIEFS BEERS 5. ALICE EBER 6. FERNER HANKE 7. CHAIRS REERS



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**AUGUST 1ST - AUGUST 31ST**

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ALLOYS, LOW KMS **\$21,777**

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PW, PL, PS, KEYLESS,  
ALLOYS, LOW KMS **\$29,777**

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FOG LIGHTS, LOW KMS **\$8,777**

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LOADED, HEATED LTH SEATS,  
AUTO, DVD, ALL-TERRAIN-TIRES,  
A/C, 4X4, LOW KMS **\$24,777**

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ALLOYS, LOW KMS **\$21,777**

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FOG LIGHTS, ALLOYS, LOW KMS **\$21,777**

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IW635198

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A/C, PW, PL, QUAD CAB, KEYLESS  
FOG LIGHTS, ALLOYS, LOW KMS

**\$24,777**



CHB17586

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ALLOYS, U-CONNECT LOW KMS

**\$23,777**



CH169905

## 08 FORD EXPLORER XLT

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